



friday, november 8, 2013

Jones AT&T Stadium @ 11:00 a.m.

K-STATE VS. Texas Tech

the collegian

GAMEDAY GUIDE

NO LOOKING BACK

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Preview and Analysis

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Jake Waters

5 By the Numbers:
How long has
K-State gone
without a
road win?

GAMEDAY WEATHER
FORECAST



High: 61 °F
Low: 37 °F



Cats look to extend win streak against Texas Tech



Parker Robb | Collegian

Senior running back Robert Rose rushes before fumbling the ball at the 10-yard line to set up Iowa State's lone touchdown late in the fourth quarter of the Wildcats' win over the Iowa State Cyclones Saturday afternoon in Bill Snyder Family Stadium. The Wildcats defeated the Cyclones 41-7 in the rivalry known as "Farmageddon."

Emilio Rivera
staff writer

Coming off of two-straight Big 12 wins that broke a three-game conference slide, the K-State football team now turns its attention to winning their first game away from Manhattan this season. The Wildcats are headed into a hostile environment at Jones AT&T Stadium where they will face off against the Texas Tech Red Raiders, and over 60,000 fans celebrating 18 seniors on senior day.

The Wildcats are coming off of their best game of the season, a 41-7 dismantling of the Iowa State Cyclones. Senior running back John Hubert set the tone for the team with one of his best performances of the season. He rushed for 105 yards on 15 attempts, including a season-high 54-yard run in the middle of the first quarter to set up a field goal.

The Wildcats were solid defensively and allowed just 249 total

yards, their best mark of the season. The Cyclones' longest play registered just 16 yards, marking the first time since their K-State's first game against North Dakota State, that the Wildcats didn't allow a single play of 20 yards or more. They held the Cyclones to just 4-of-15 on third downs.

"We did not give up any big plays; that was major in my eyes," head coach Bill Snyder said after the game. "We did a pretty good job on third down."

In Lubbock, Texas, the Wildcats will face one of the most prolific passing offenses in the country. Red Raider freshman quarterback Davis Webb has passed for over 300-yards five times on the season, and over 400-yards three times. Webb averages 279.6 yards a game, totaling 2,237 yards on the season. His backup, walk-on freshman Baker Mayfield, averages 297.6 yards per-game.

Part of the Red Raiders success in

the passing game is their receiving core. Leading the team is the junior tight end Jace Amaro, who leads the Big 12 in receptions per game and is fifth in the nation in receiving yards per game. Amaro averages 115 yards per game and has racked up 1,035 yards receiving thus far, the only receiver in the Big 12 over the 1,000-yard mark as of today.

"[Amaro] is very physical after he catches the ball," Snyder said. "He presents major problems to anybody."

Amaro isn't the only threat in the passing game, however. Senior wide receiver Eric Ward and sophomore receiver Jakeem Grant are also in the top 10 in both receptions and receiving yards per game in the Big 12.

"This [Red Raider] offense is very talented and very dynamic," junior linebacker Jonathan Truman said. "This game is going to be a challenge, and we are willing to step up and accept the challenge."

The Wildcats will have to take advantage of time of possession. The Red Raiders tend to score fast, holding the ball only 28 minutes a game. The Wildcats counter this by holding the ball an average of 32 minutes a game. The Wildcats will need to force the Red Raiders into long drives, while not rushing their own drives.

The Wildcat defense comes in looking to show why they are the 30th ranked defense in the country in total yards allowed, and stop the second ranked pass offense in the country.

Red zone touchdowns will also be important for K-State. The offense scores a touchdown just 66.7 percent of the time they venture inside the 20-yard line.

"We cannot walk away with field goals," Daniel Sams, sophomore quarterback, said. "It is really just finishing drives inside the 20 and not walking away with field goals."

A decent rushing game by the opponent was key in back-to-back Red Raider losses during the last two weeks. Oklahoma ran for 277 yards while Oklahoma State ran for 281 yards. The offensive line will match-up against a Texas Tech defense that has recorded 15 sacks and 61 tackles for loss on the season.

"There are guys up front that are very physical, very tough, big guys that are hard to move, and they are athletic, pretty quick," junior offensive lineman BJ Finney said. "We are going to have to execute and finish our blocks."

Perhaps the biggest factor for the Wildcats against the Red Raiders will be the will to win. After two straight losses that had them fall from a No. 10 ranking, the Red Raiders will be aiming to prove themselves, especially the seniors who will be looking to end their careers in Lubbock on a high note.

Analyzing Texas Tech: Freshman quarterback fuels potent passing attack

Adam Suderman
staff writer

Texas Tech head coach Kliff Kingsbury is only in his first season at the helm of his new team, but the former Red Raider quarterback has quickly given the program a national identity.

The Red Raiders debuted in the nation polls after their Sept. 15 win against TCU. They have climbed as high as No. 16, but their back-to-back losses put them at No. 25 this week.

Under Kingsbury, Texas Tech started 7-0 for the fourth time in school history. It's also the third straight year they have started 4-0. No other time in Red Raider history has the program achieved that record over a three-year stretch.

At 34 years old, Kingsbury is the youngest head coach at the FBS level and has coaching success with marquee college players such as Case Keenum and Johnny Manziel has helped propel him to experience beyond his years.

As a former quarterback, Kingsbury works with his signal callers frequently. The Red Raiders have settled in with freshman

quarterback Davis Webb, but they've also used fellow freshman Baker Mayfield and sophomore Michael Brewer.

Webb leads the team with 2,237 passing yards with 15 touchdown passes. He has completed 185 of his 300 pass attempts and had a season high 71 pass attempts in last Saturday's 52-34 loss to Oklahoma State.

Although Webb hasn't been perfect for the Red Raiders - he's thrown four interceptions in the last two games - he's still playing at a much higher level than most freshman quarterbacks.

The Texas Tech quarterback is the only freshman in school history to throw for at least 400 yards two times in a season. His 462 passing yards against West Virginia were the fifth most in school history against a Big 12 opponent.

Webb's greatest weapon comes in tight end Jace Amaro. With his numbers, the junior is easily in the argument for the nation's top tight end.

Amaro has 79 receptions for 1,035 yards this season. Since 2000, he is only the second Texas Tech receiver to tally at least eight receptions in eight straight

games and hauled in an impressive 15 catches for 174 yards against the Cowboys this season.

Joining Amaro in the receiving corps is wideout Eric Ward. The senior captain has been a dominant force for the Red Raiders since his arrival in 2009.

Ward currently ranks fifth in school history for all-time receptions with 226. The mark is just five receptions behind former Red Raider and current San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree. He also ranks fourth in career touchdowns.

In the backfield, carries are split between junior Kenny Washington and sophomore DeAndre Washington. Dependence on the run game has been very sporadic; against Oklahoma State, the Red Raiders only rushed the ball 25 times as a team.

Despite the occasional rushing outburst, such as the 45 carry, 251 yard performance against Iowa State, it's clear the Texas Tech offense circles around its passing attack.

The most improved element for the Red Raiders is their defense. Although battered of late, the group has put together a

pretty successful season. The strength of the unit comes in its linebacker corps. Three of the top four tacklers fall within this group.

Senior linebacker Will Smith not only leads the team in tackles with 64, but sacks as well with 3.5 on the season. Behind Smith are sophomore Micah Awe with 46 tackles and junior Sam Eguavoen with 42 tackles.

As one of its most tenured members, senior defensive lineman Kerry Hyder is the heart and soul of the front seven. Hyder is one of Texas Tech's four captains. He has been a force in

the opponent's backfield with 10 tackles for loss on the season.

Experience as a whole has paid off for the Red Raider defense. At the start of the season, they had 158 career starts among the group. To put the numbers into perspective, the offense only had 79 career starts.

Leading the defense is a familiar name to the Wildcat fan base. Matt Wallerstedt, a 1988 K-State graduate, coached linebackers and special teams for two seasons under former head coach Ron Prince. After spending one season at Texas A&M, Wallerstedt made his way to Lubbock,

Texas and has been there since.

At the beginning of conference play, much of the nation was talking about Texas Tech and possible conference championship chances. After coaching Manziel last season, it made Kingsbury's resume look quite good. Through nine games, he has proven he can be the face of a program.

Although the Red Raiders lead the all-time series, the Wildcats have won the last two meetings. That also includes a win in Lubbock in 2011 where Texas Tech is 6-2 against K-State.

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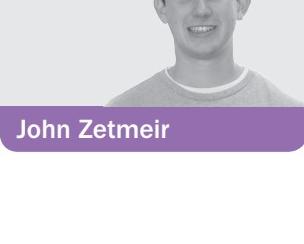
John Zetmeir

The Wildcats have struggled against Texas Tech in the past. Even though Texas Tech is the higher ranked team with home field advantage, K-State should be favored in this game. The Wildcats have won their last two games while the Red Raiders have lost their last two with very poor defensive performances. K-State played Baylor, Texas and Oklahoma State close with the opportunity to win all three games. They have continued to progress this season and need this win in Lubbock, Texas to get closer to bowl eligibility.

While the Wildcats have been successful in years past, the Red Raiders are still a confident bunch after stringing together seven consecutive wins under first-year coach Kliff Kingsbury. The injury bug got the best of Tech's defense last week and the secondary is nearly decimated, however, the last time K-State traveled to Lubbock they did not fare well on the ground beyond former Wildcat quarterback Collin Klein. The Red Raiders have been tight-lipped about the potential of sophomore quarterback Daniel Sams — a quarterback who's carried the ball twice as many times as he's thrown it this season — breaking loose in Jones AT&T Stadium. But if the Wildcats are going to win the game on the ground, he'll have to be an essential piece.



Michael DuPoint II



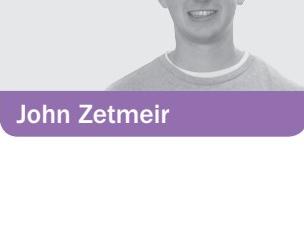
John Zetmeir

Daniel Sams is definitely somebody that the Red Raiders should fear. We've seen Sams have his recent struggles, but you can't take away what he did against Baylor and Oklahoma State. K-State's best strategy could be to unleash Sams; if that is not effective, Jake Waters has showed that he is ready for Big 12 competition. There is a lot of hype around Tech's wide receiver Eric Ward, but Tyler Lockett is someone the Red Raiders have to look out for. Lockett is one of the most electrifying players in the Big 12.

If Ward is the player K-State is eying, the Wildcats have their eyes set on the wrong pass catcher. Junior tight end face Amaro leads the Big 12 Conference in receptions per game, above Lockett, and ranks third in the Big 12 for receiving yards per game, also just above Lockett. Amaro's 6-foot-6-inch, 265 pound frame allows him to catch passes in the middle of the field and barrel through defenders, which makes him an asset at the inside receiver position. Amaro also ranks fifth nationally for receiving yardage, causing him to begin picking up some Biletnikoff buzz. If you're looking for the most electrifying player in the Big 12, look no further than Amaro.



Michael DuPoint II



John Zetmeir

It is true that Amaro can do a lot on the offensive side of the ball, but don't forget what else Lockett brings to the table. The last time Lockett played a game in Lubbock, he returned a kickoff for an 100-yard touchdown. On paper, Tech might look like the favorite, but in actuality, they are coming off of two straight losses. In the two games they played prior to those losses, they narrowly defeated Iowa State and West Virginia. Those are the two teams that K-State has rolled in the last two weeks, allowing them to score just a combined 19 points. Tech's offense is very capable ranking second in the country in passing yards per game, but the Wildcats are on a mission. The Red Raiders have hit the latter part of their schedule which is also the toughest part. Let's see how Kingsbury handles things when he is faced with a potential three game losing streak.

One thing coach Kingsbury will not do is talk about the losses Tech already suffered. The Oklahoma game was tough, but the Lubbock community rallied behind the Red Raiders' valiant efforts. Kingsbury nearly became the first Big 12 coach to beat Bob Stoops in his first meeting since former Oklahoma State coach Les Miles accomplished the feat. Special teams is definitely an area of concern for the Red Raiders, so it wouldn't be a surprise if Lockett were to break a big return, even if it wasn't for a touchdown. Tech ranks last in the conference for both the turnover margin and penalties. For Tech to be successful on Saturday, freshman quarterback Davis Webb will need to avoid putting the ball back in K-State's hands and the Red Raiders will need to avoid getting the zebras involved. Although the Wildcats have had the Red Raiders number for the past few seasons, Tech still owns the series record 8-5. Look for the Red Raiders to extend that lead this weekend, knowing that wins will be scarce in the weeks to follow.



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POWERCAT PROFILE

JAKE WATERS

John Zetmeir
sports editor

Jake Waters is a winner. He has proven this time and time again. During his time in high school, Waters led St. Albert to two state championships as he compiled a 37-2 record as a three-year starter. After Waters took off the Falcons jersey, the winning continued.

It might surprise some people that a player who's accumulated over 7,000 total yards and nearly 100 touchdowns received only one college offer. That one offer came from local community college, Iowa Western. Waters continued to show that winning mentality at Iowa Western, ending his NJCAA career by winning almost every accolade in the book. As a sophomore, Waters led the Reivers to a perfect record and the schools first national championship. After setting the junior college completion percentage record on top of the perfect season, Waters was named the National Junior College offensive player of the year.

The player who was once overlooked for any division-one offers, found himself with offers from schools all around the country. It came down to Penn State and K-State for Waters, but in the end, he decided to take his talents to Manhattan.

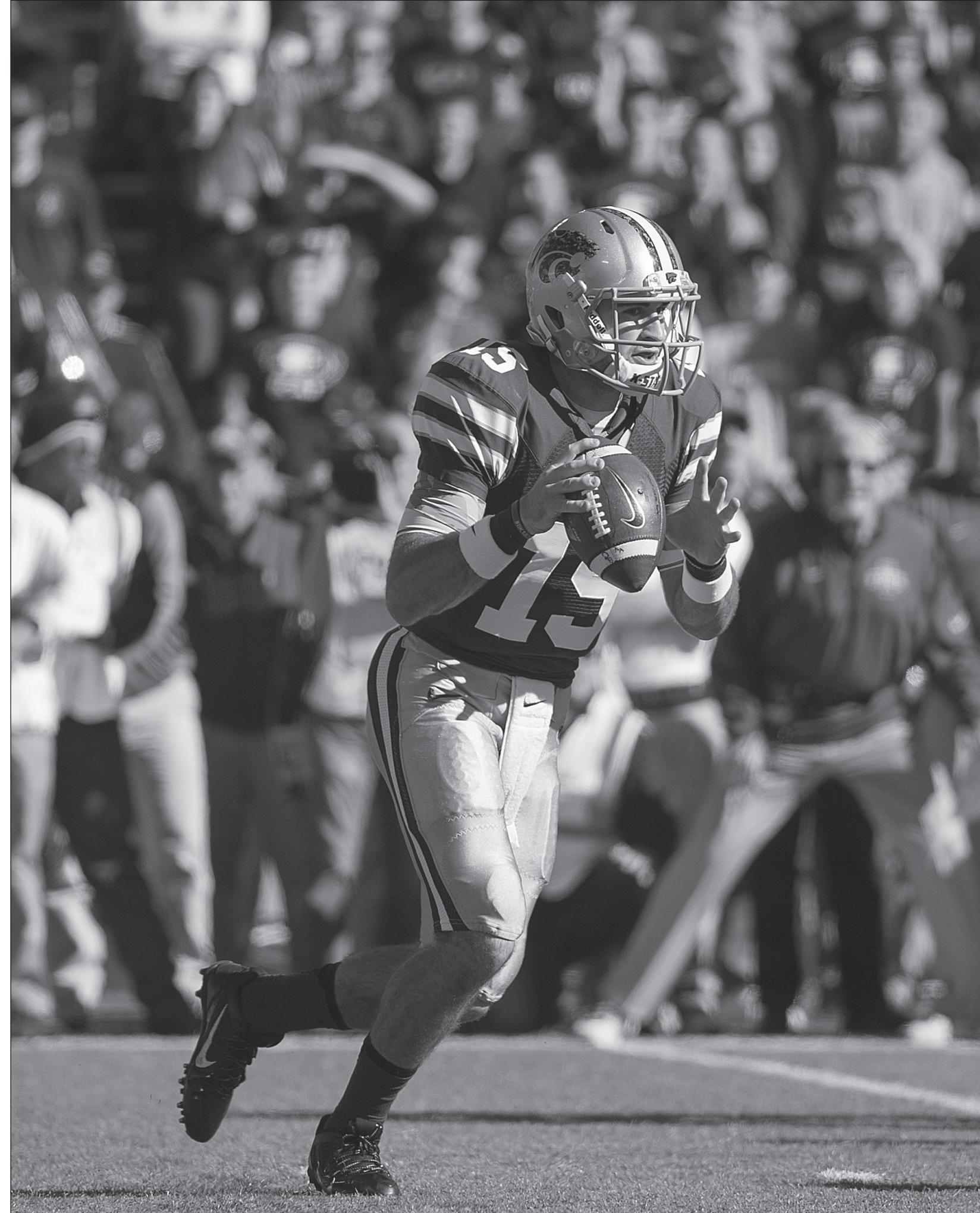
Last season, the Wildcats saw their starting quarterback Collin Klein finish third in the Heisman trophy voting. This left big shoes to fill for whoever would come in to fill that spot. Waters knew that the task would not be an easy one, but he was ready for the challenge.

"There is definitely pressure just [being the starter] no matter who you are following up," Waters said at K-State football media day in early August. "But definitely with Collin being here, there is a lot of pressure that they want to see who's that next guy in line. But I'm going to put more expectations and more pressure on myself than anyone outside will."

Up until the week of K-State's first game, fans still did not know who the starting quarterback would be. Waters was competing with redshirt-sophomore Daniel Sams for the starting job. Head coach Bill Snyder made the announcement early in the week with K-State slated to play their first game against North Dakota State that Friday.

"Probably just prior to making the announcement," Snyder said, when asked when he decided Waters would be the starter. "I think that the competition was productive and I think it was extremely competitive during that period of time. Consistency was a big part of it and many other things. Just as far as being able to say, in my own mind, I know this is the way we want to enter the first ballgame, probably three days ago maybe."

Waters became the first junior-college transfer to win the starting quarterback job in their first year at K-State, before taking a snap as a Wildcat, since Michael Bishop in 1997. That season, the Wildcats went 10-1 with a win over



Parker Robb | Collegian

Junior quarterback Jake Waters throws a pass during the first quarter of the Wildcats' win over the Iowa State Cyclones Saturday afternoon in Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Waters finished the game completing 9 of 15 pass attempts for 157 yards as the Cats routed the Cyclones 41-7.

Syracuse in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

In his first game as a Wildcat, Waters showed signs of his passing prowess. However, he also showed signs of inconsistency. Waters completed 72 percent of his passes, while passing for 280 yards

and two touchdowns. He was also guilty of throwing two interceptions. K-State fell to the Bison 24-21, but this was the fans first glimpse of what the junior-college product could do.

Waters has remained the starter, but Snyder has made

it clear that both he and Sams are going to play. The team struggled early while adjusting to the two-quarterback system. K-State has had opportunities to win every game this season, but have fallen short on many accounts. After a brutal opening to Big 12 play,

the Wildcats found themselves fall to a 2-4 record, but they've bounced back by winning their last two games.

Despite throwing five interceptions in his first three games as a Wildcat, Waters has yet to be picked off in Big 12 play. Not only has Waters

found more success in the passing game, but he has looked more comfortable running the ball as well. Criticism generally looms around two-quarterback systems, but the Wildcats have continued to move the ball no matter who is behind center.

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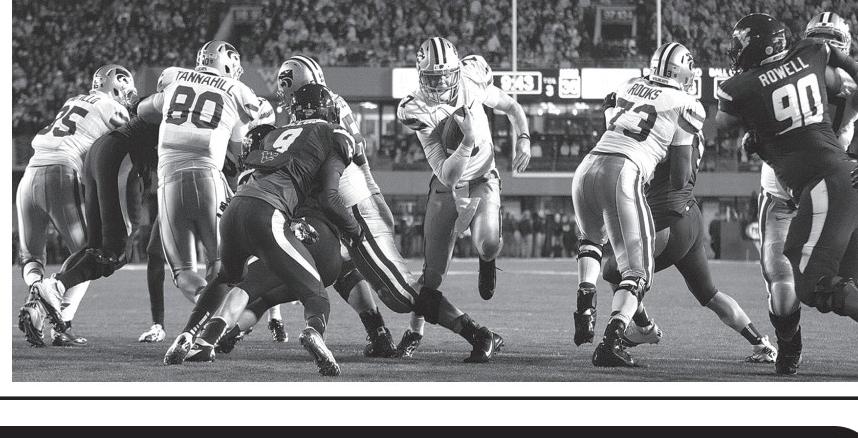
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Big 12 Predictions: OSU, Baylor remain in spotlight



TCU Horned Frogs vs Iowa State Cyclones
11 a.m. CDT, FOX Sports 1

It's no secret that it's been a disappointing season for both TCU and Iowa State. Neither team has found their footing in Big 12 play, and it's likely that both will be sitting at home during bowl season.

TCU's biggest issue this year has been consistency. This is

the same team that gave the No. 12-ranked LSU a run for their money at the start of the year and then later nearly lost to Kansas at Amon Carter Stadium. The Horned Frogs have dealt with injuries and suspensions, sure, but mistakes and the lack of play makers have held back this team from what looked like a promising year early on.

On the other hand, Iowa

State is in a position of "we've got nothing to lose," and perhaps that's the most dangerous time to face this Cyclones squad. Iowa State has the statistical advantage at nearly every position, and it's always difficult to walk into Jack Trice Stadium and come out with a win.

Prediction: Iowa State 27, TCU 20



Kansas Jayhawks vs No. 14 Oklahoma State Cowboys
3 p.m. CDT, FOX Sports 1

This matchup is a tale of opposites. Oklahoma State enters the game firing on all cylinders, while Kansas is just simply looking to stop the bleeding on another dreadful season.

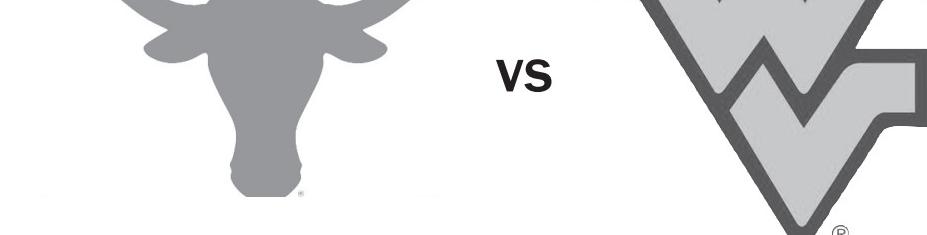
Unfortunately for the Jay-

hawks, Saturday's matchup doesn't bode well. Kansas has tallied just 44 road points in three away games, an average of 14.7 points per contest. In those same three games, Kansas has given up 85 points, which is nearly 30 points per game.

Oklahoma State will likely exploit Kansas' 113th ranked

total defense with an offense that's putting up 40.5 points per game, including 263.9 rushing yards per contest. The Cowboys also have the benefit of an improved defense that's giving up just over 20 points per game.

Prediction: Oklahoma State 47, Kansas 17



Texas Longhorns vs West Virginia Mountaineers
6 p.m. CDT, FOX

This one may turn out to be one of the more interesting Big 12 matchups of the weekend. Texas faces its first true Big 12 road test, while West Virginia eyes bowl contention and protection of their home field.

On paper, Texas has the ex-

perience and the confidence to take down West Virginia in Morgantown. However, Texas has had trouble on the road, losing to BYU and barely pulling past Iowa State. Still, with the Big 12 trophy in clear view, expect Mac Brown and the Longhorns to be ready.

Where Texas has somewhat struggled on the road, West Virginia has excelled at

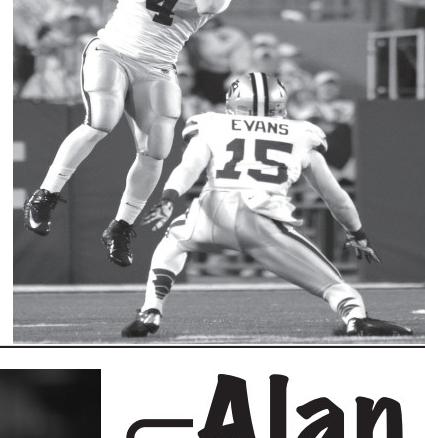
home. The Mountaineers have lost just once at Milan Puskar Stadium this year, a 10-point defeat in a shootout with Texas Tech. Expect West Virginia to give Texas a match, especially through the air behind the arm of junior quarterback Clint Trickett.

Prediction: Texas 30, West Virginia 24

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Keys to the game: Wildcats look to keep streak going

Corbin McGuire
staff writer

K-State Wildcats Continue improvement on defense

So far, K-State has answered a three-game losing streak with two wins in a row, giving up just 19 points in the two victories. The two wins came inside the comfort of Bill Snyder Family Stadium against West Virginia and Iowa State, who aren't exactly the cream of the crop in the Big 12 this season offensively. Saturday's game against No. 25 Texas Tech in Lubbock, Texas will test just how much improvement the Wildcats' defense has made.

K-State will need to continue its trend of turning opposing offenses over – forcing six turnovers the past two games – against the Red Raiders, who've turned the ball over six times the past two games.

Even with six turnovers in their past two games, the Red Raiders' offense put up 30-plus points and combined for more than 1,000 yards total offense in their losses to No. 15 Oklahoma and No. 18 Oklahoma State, so simply turning the Red Raiders over may not be enough.

Posing the biggest matchup problem for K-State, or any team really, is Texas Tech's Jace Amaro, who's already broken 1,000 yards receiving this year and ranks No. 5 in the FBS in receiving yards. The 6-foot-5, 260 pound junior tight end possesses the size and speed that has the potential to create mismatches all over the field for K-State.

"(Amaro) presents major problems to anybody," K-State coach Bill Snyder said in a press conference this week.

Control the clock

K-State learned that the best way to keep a prolific offense from lighting up the scoreboard is simple. Keep them on the sideline with long offensive drives of your own.

The Wildcats held Baylor to its lowest offensive output all season, thanks to controlling the ball for nearly 40 minutes. Doing this requires solid third-down defense – Baylor was 4-of-13 on third downs against K-State. Texas Tech is third in the Big



Emily DeShazer | Collegian

Senior defensive back Ty Zimmerman catches an interception against Iowa State on Nov. 2 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Keeping turnovers to a minimum will be a key to winning for the Wildcats against the Texas Tech Red Raiders on Saturday.

12 in third-down conversion percentage – behind K-State and Baylor – at 45.6 percent.

Allowing big plays, however, erased an otherwise solid defensive performance against Baylor, and it is always a point of emphasis that Snyder said he makes to his teams.

"Yes, it is a major concern week in and week out," Snyder said. "Probably with a team like Tech, it is probably as big a concern as any that you have."

Texas Tech Make K-State QBs one-dimensional

It's no secret at this point that

K-State quarterbacks Jake Waters and Daniel Sams are both a large part of the Wildcat offense. It's also not unknown what each quarterback is known for – Waters ranks No. 4 in the Big 12 in passing yards per game to Sams' No. 5 rank in rushing yards per game.

"My response to it is that it is not enough yards," Snyder said. "I do not care where they rank. We could use more yardage out of them."

Lately, though, Waters and Sams have emerged as dual-threat quarterbacks. In K-State's 35-12 win against West Virginia, Waters ran for 55 yards on 10 carries to compliment 10-of-13

for 198 yards and three touchdowns in the passing game. Sams was a perfect 8 for 8 for 93 yards. In K-State's 41-7 win against Iowa State, Sams went 4 for 5 for 64 yards and a touchdown while running for 57 yards as well.

Getting pressure on Waters will be a must for the Red Raiders, who average two sacks a game. Making Sams throw the ball downfield is another key for the Red Raiders.

Win the turnover battle

The Red Raiders have learned the hard way that even an explosive offense must take care of the football

against the Big 12's best. Texas Tech ranks last in turnover margin (-7), just below K-State at (-6).

Good news for the Red Raiders, K-State's two road games against Texas and Oklahoma State included eight turnovers – out of 18 on the year – on offense, while only forcing one.

The Red Raiders are more likely to overcome a few turnovers given their offensive success, but only if they force K-State – who went without a turnover last week until Robert Rose fumbled late in the fourth quarter of the Iowa State game – into a few of its own.

Comparing positions: No shortage of playmakers on both sides of ball



Parker Robb | Collegian

Junior wide receiver Tyler Lockett evades a tackler after making a catch during the first quarter of the Wildcats' win over the Iowa State Cyclones last Saturday at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. Lockett's catch set up a one-yard touchdown run by quarterback Daniel Sams that put K-State up 17-0. Lockett is currently ranked fourth in the Big 12 in receiving yards per game at 94.

Spencer Low
staff writer

QB Davis Webb vs QB Jake Waters

Webb, a highly touted high school recruit from the state of Texas, was beat out by fellow freshman Baker Mayfield for the starting role to begin the season for the Red Raiders. But when

Mayfield was injured against Kansas on Oct. 5, Webb entered the game and helped Texas Tech move to 5-0 by throwing two touchdowns on 3-of-6 passing for 36 yards. Since then, Webb has not thrown for less than 385 yards in four starts and has nine touchdowns in those games as Texas Tech has gone 2-2 with him at the helm. For the season, the 6-foot-4,

195-pound quarterback has completed 61.7 percent of his passes, while racking up 2,237 yards, 15 touchdowns and throwing nine interceptions. He has thrown an interception in all but one of his four starts, including two each against Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

Waters has had a significant role for K-State this season, but

unlike Webb, has not had the chance to play an entire game at quarterback. However, he has put up solid numbers when given the chance, 1,391 yards for seven touchdowns and five interceptions with a 63.3 completion percentage. While he may not have the gaudy numbers Webb does, he can make all the throws, and continues to try and prove why he

should be the number one quarterback for Bill Snyder and the Wildcats.

Edge: Webb vs Lockett

Edge: Webb. Both quarterbacks were big recruits for their schools who did not perform as well as fans hoped early in the season. But Webb simply plays in an offense that relies on throwing the ball much more so than Waters. He will undoubtedly have more numbers, but Waters may edge him out on game day by making his numbers count more.

DL Kerry Hyder vs DL Ryan Mueller

Hyder, now in his senior season, leads Texas Tech and is sixth in the Big 12 with 10 tackles for loss this season, exactly one-fourth of his 40 tackles on the season.

The native of Austin, Texas has also tallied two sacks this year as a leader on the Red Raider defensive line.

The 6-foot-2, 280-pound lineman can be quite the handful for opposing offenses, and the Wildcat offensive line will be keeping a keen eye on No. 91 come game time.

Hyder was a second team-All Big 12 performer last year, with 14 stops behind the line and five-and-a-half sacks, both of which were in the top-10 for the conference.

Mueller is without a doubt the star along K-State's defensive line,

ranking first in the Big 12 with seven sacks and is tied for first in the league in tackles for loss, with 11.

Mueller is also tied for second on the Wildcats with five pass breakups this year.

The junior from Leawood, Kan., has become yet another successful transition from walk-on to starter for Bill Snyder, and he has been K-State's biggest threat on the defensive line all season.

Edge: Mueller. Mueller is playing out of his mind this season,

as shown by his residence atop the two most important statistical categories for defensive linemen among the Big 12. Against a team that drops back to pass as much as anyone, look for Mueller to try and wrap up Webb a few times on Saturday.

TE Jace Amaro vs WR Tyler Lockett

Amaro is having a stellar season for the Red Raiders, with 79 catches for 1,035 yards and four touchdowns. His 79 catches are first in the conference, and he is averaging two-and-a-half more per game than the next closest pass catcher, which incidentally is Lockett.

In the age of athletic, pass-catching tight ends, Amaro is one of the nation's best. At 6-foot-5, 260 pounds, Amaro lines up all over the field, from a traditional spot next to the tackle, to the backfield and often even out in the slot. He has great speed for his size and is a threat all over the field.

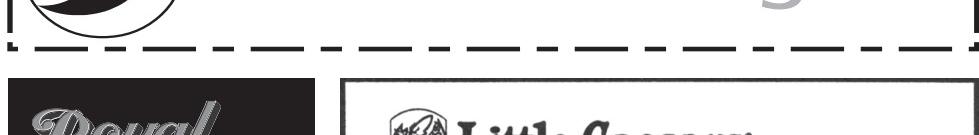
Lockett is on the opposite end of the size spectrum as Amaro, measuring in at 5-foot-11 and 175 pounds. However, if Amaro is a playmaker, Lockett belongs in whatever the next category up is. With electrifying speed and quickness, Lockett's speed is just as devastating as Amaro's size.

Not only is he one spot behind Amaro in the Big 12 in receptions per game, he places one spot behind the Red Raider tight end in receiving yards per game as well, coming in fourth with 94 yards per game.

Edge: Push. What we have here are two of the best receiving targets in the Big 12, and they both impact the game in different ways.

Amaro uses deceptive speed to hit the seam, while Lockett uses

the speed everyone is prepared for yet still blows past defenses.



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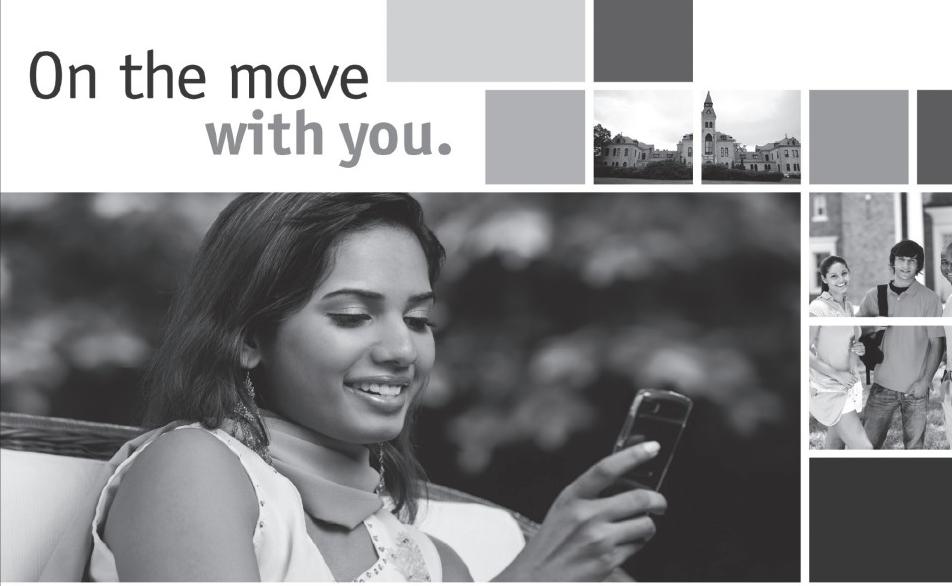


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Heisman Watch



courtesy photo

In his second year as the starting quarterback of the Oregon Ducks, **Marcus Mariota** continues to prove why he is a special talent. Through eight games this season, the talented sophomore has yet to throw an interception.



Corbin McGuire

First off, this was written before No. 3 Oregon's redemptions game against No. 5 Stanford and No. 6 Baylor's test against No. 10 Oklahoma on ESPN Thursday night. Safe to say the outcome of those games could be pivotal in Marcus Mariota's and Bryce Petty's Heisman fate. Since Mariota, Petty, and

AJ McCarron all are coming off bye weeks, not much changed in this week's list, but this week could be the biggest shakeup all season.

1. Jameis Winston (QB, Florida State) – Winston wasn't flawless in the Seminoles' 41-14 blowout of in-state

rival Miami. He threw two interceptions in the first half, after which the Seminoles led just 21-14 before scoring 20 unanswered in the second half. The freshman did complete 21 of 29 pass attempts for 325 yards, running for 27 more to lead the Seminoles past one of their few legitimate remaining threats

to an undefeated season. Winston's team has outscored its three ranked opponents – Maryland, Clemson and Miami – 155-28. The Seminoles close the season on the road against Wake Forest, at home against Syracuse and Idaho before a regular season contest at Florida. If Winston and the Seminoles make it through that stretch without a scratch, it'd be hard to imagine his name not being echoed in serious Heisman conversations.

2. Marcus Mariota (QB, Oregon) – First on my list a freshman, second a sophomore, (spoiler alert) the third will be a junior and to no surprise my fourth is a senior. Not planned, I swear, but it reveals how college football is slowly moving closer to the culture of college basketball, trending with an increasing number of younger players becoming stars. Mariota was in the Heisman discussion a year ago as a freshman, but a loss to Stanford ended Mariota's Heisman hopes and the Ducks' national title aspirations. The No. 3 Ducks can take a step closer than last year with a win over No. 5 Stanford in Stanford, Calif. The win would almost guarantee the Ducks the Pac-12 North, with the Pac-12 South still up for grabs between Arizona State, Arizona, UCLA – who the Ducks beat 42-14 – and USC.

3. Bryce Petty (QB, Baylor) – Until a team figures out a way to slow down Baylor's offense, led by Petty, long enough to score more points than the Bears, there's no reason to think the junior quarterback won't receive an invitation to New York come December. The path won't be easy though, as the Bears' final five games consist of home games against No. 10 Oklahoma Thursday and No. 25 Texas Tech, at No. 14 Oklahoma State and TCU and at home against Texas. Talk about a back-heavy schedule. Running the table won't be easy, but having three of its final five games at home and one of the roadies being against 3-6 TCU, it's not implausible. If somehow Winston, Mariota and Petty – and you know, Alabama – all end the season undefeated there will be two very loud debates. One over which two teams deserve to play in the BCS National Championship, and the other over which of these quarterbacks deserves the Heisman trophy.

4. AJ McCarron (QB, Alabama) – It's been a while since Alabama has been tested. Almost two months, actually, since the Johnny Manziel led Texas A&M Aggies came up a touchdown shy of the No. 1 team in the country. Since Alabama's only win by less than 25-points, the Tide have outscored their last six opponents 246-26. Coming to Tuscaloosa, Ala., Saturday is the Zach Mettenberger-led LSU Tigers, who are coming off a bye week two weeks after a road loss to Ole Miss. McCarron's national title odds probably exceed his odds at winning a Heisman, but crazy things can happen in the final weeks of college football. And more often than not, they do.

5. Johnny Manziel (QB, Texas A&M) – Needing more help than anyone on the list, despite being on pace to blow by his freshman, Heisman winning numbers is Johnny Football! One thing Manziel can't improve upon is his team's win-loss record, after losses to Alabama and more recently to Auburn, both at home. Unless players above him lose, Manziel is unlikely to win over an undefeated quarterback and won't be facing a vote-repelling defensive position.



Alabama
Auburn
Miami
Michigan
Wisconsin
K-State

Record:
28-20



Alabama
Auburn
Miami
Nebraska
Wisconsin
Texas Tech

Guest
Picker



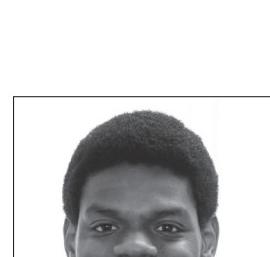
Alabama
Auburn
Miami
Michigan
Wisconsin
K-State

Record:
36-12



Alabama
Auburn
VT
Michigan
Wisconsin
K-State

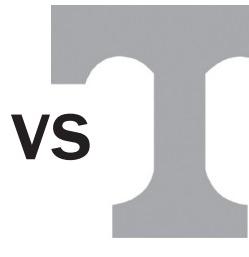
Record:
34-14



Alabama
Tennessee
VT
Michigan
Wisconsin
K-State

Record:
28-20

Games of the Week Preview: Week 11



No. 1 Alabama Crimson Tide vs. No. 10 LSU Tigers
7:00 p.m. CDT, CBS

The unbeatable Alabama Crimson Tide will look to keep on rolling as they take on the 7-2 LSU Tigers in Tuscaloosa, Ala. on Saturday night. The rivalry between the Crimson Tide and the Tigers is one of epic proportions in this modern era of college football. The last time these two met, Alabama squeezed out a 21-17 victory in the final seconds in Tiger Stadium before going on to win the National Championship. The season prior, No. 2 Alabama upset the No. 1 LSU 21-0 in the BCS Championship rematch — LSU had won the season's regular season meeting 9-6.

I would say that the 8-0 Tide should roll through the 2-loss Tigers, but honestly you never know with these two teams. I would go as far as to say that we could even put this one on upset watch. This one isn't for the papers; this one is for the blood, heart and glory.

No. 7 Auburn Tigers vs. Tennessee Volunteers
11:00 a.m. CDT, ESPN

The early morning ball game will consist of running. Lots and lots of running. The Tigers have plowed their way into potential National Championship contenders with a running game that wins ball games. Against Arkansas last week, quarterback Nick Marshall threw a measly nine passes and the Tigers still won 35-17. Between the mobile Marshall and tailback Tre Mason, the Tigers average 306.2 yards on the ground. In stark contrast, Tennessee gave up 339 rush yards to a then-No. 10 Missouri Tigers program in a loss last weekend.

On average, the Vols give up 201.7 rush yards on average. If Tennessee wants any chance at winning this one against a hot Auburn Tigers group, they need to shut down the run.

Michigan Wolverines vs. Nebraska Cornhuskers
2:30 p.m. CDT, ABC

The 6-2 Michigan Wolverines will take on the 6-2 Nebraska Cornhuskers at home this Saturday afternoon. With last week's loss to the Michigan State Spartans, the Wolverines are looking to pick up the remains of their disappointing season. This season will mark the 10th straight season in which Michigan will fall short of a Big 10 Championship.

Not has Nebraska been pretty thus far. The Huskers' win last week over Northwestern was decided by the final play: a Hail Mary from quarterback Ron Kelllogg that was tipped by the Northwestern safety Traveon Henry into the hands of a perfectly placed Jordan Westerkamp in the back of the end zone.

With Michigan quarterback Devin Gardner beaten and bruised to the point that he was not cleared to practice on Sunday and Monday after seven sacks and another half-dozen hits in their loss to the Spartans last weekend, look for a more aggressive Cornhusker team to come away with a victory.



Virginia Tech Hokies vs. No. 14 Miami Hurricanes
6:00 p.m. CDT, ESPN

In this east coast battle, the turbulent Miami Hurricanes will be coming for blood. After starting the season at a slick 7-0, the Canes had their sights set on Pasadena, Calif., and the BCS national championship game. However, a loss to the Florida State Seminoles last week ground the Miami squad. That was a big game, but realistically, not their biggest of the season.

The match up with the Virginia Tech Hokies will be yet another dramatic chapter in what has become a deep-seated rivalry. Keep in mind that Miami is still in a rebuilding phase and with running back Duke Johnson breaking his ankle last week in Tallahassee, the Hurricanes will have to come out firing the best that they can. Virginia Tech has won five of their last seven meetings with the 'Canes dating back to 1995. This one, folks, will be one to watch.



BYU Cougars vs. No. 21 Wisconsin Badgers
2:30 p.m. CDT, ESPN

The 6-2 Cougars will get back to the grind after their second bye week of the season as they travel to Camp Randall Stadium in Madison, Wis. This will be the teams' first matchup since 1980 when the Cougars took down the Badgers 28-3 in Madison.

BYU, in their third year of independence, will need everybody to bring their "A" game to defeat the Big Ten powerhouse. The Badgers are the only team to have come remotely close to toppling over undefeated Ohio State. In addition, Wisconsin has a two-running back assault that features rushers Melvin Gordon – 134.3 yards per game – and James White – 100.5 yards per game. Coincidentally, BYU is the only other team in the country with a dual 100-yard running-back threat.

Like with the Auburn-Tennessee game, expect lots and lots of running. To put it simply, the team who establishes an iron curtain on defense will be the team to win. Don't expect either team to air it out.

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